

OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST OVER-SNOW VEHICLE USE DESIGNATION

USDA Forest Service
Tahoe National Forest
Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra,
and Yuba Counties, California

The Forest Service has conducted an environmental analysis for the Tahoe National Forest Over-Snow Vehicle (OSV) Use Designation Project. A final environmental impact statement (FEIS) has been completed, and the Responsible Official, Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor of the Tahoe National Forest, has prepared a Draft Record of Decision (ROD). The FEIS and Draft ROD are available online on the Tahoe National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45914>. In addition, copies of the FEIS and Draft ROD are available at the Tahoe National Forest Supervisor's Office, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959 or by contacting the Project Leader, Joe Chavez, at 530-478-6158.

The Draft Record of Decision would implement Alternative 2, Modified Proposed Action, which would designate: (1) approximately 410,703 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands on the Tahoe National Forest for public cross-country OSV use and (2) approximately 384 miles of OSV trails, of which 247 miles would be available for snow grooming. Class 1 OSVs would be allowed on all designated OSV trails and areas; Class 2 OSVs would only be allowed on designated OSV trails available for grooming. This alternative designates 34 OSV crossings of the Pacific Crest Trail, and includes snow depth requirements and provisions for monitoring and enforcement. In addition, Alternative 2 would amend the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1990) by removing the OSV use standards and guidelines for each management area and replacing them with the following forest-wide standard: "Manage over the snow vehicle (OSV) use through designation of areas and trails consistent with travel management regulations."

The draft decision is subject to two different objection processes because it includes both a project-level decision as well as a forest plan amendment decision. The project-level decision (which includes all elements of the draft decision except the proposed forest plan amendment) is subject to the objection regulations at 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. The forest plan amendment portion of the decision is subject to the objection regulations at 36 CFR 219, Subpart B. While the two objection processes are similar, there are some important differences as described below.

Who May File an Objection

36 CFR 218 (Project): Individuals or entities who have submitted timely, specific written comments about the proposed project during any designated opportunity for public comment are eligible to file an objection on the Project (36 CFR 218.5(a)).

36 CFR 219 (Forest Plan Amendment): Individuals or entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the plan amendment during the opportunities for public comment are eligible to file an objection on the forest plan amendment portion of the Project (36 CFR 218.5).

Required Content for an Objection

36 CFR 218 (Project): Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed Project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities. Objections on the Project must include the following information (36 CFR 218.8(d)): (1) objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available; (2) objector's signature or other verification of authorship; (3) identification of a single lead objector when applicable; (4) project name, Responsible Official name and title (Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest), and name of affected National Forest(s) and/or Ranger District(s); (5) description of those aspects of the project being objected to, including specific issues related to the proposed project; (6) specific reasons for, and suggested remedies to resolve, the objection; and (7) description of the connection between the objection and the objector's prior comments, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. Documents incorporated by reference must adhere to 36 CFR 218.8(b).

36 CFR 219 (Forest Plan Amendment): Objections on the forest plan amendment portion of the Project must include the following information (36 CFR 219.54(c)): (1) the objector's name and address, along with a telephone number or email address if available; (2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection); (3) identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection; (4) the name of the plan amendment being objected to and Responsible Official name and title (Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest); (5) a statement of the issues and/or the parts of the plan amendment to which the objection applies; (6) a concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved; and (7) a statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment. Documents incorporated by reference must adhere to 36 CFR 219.54(b).

Where to File an Objection

The Regional Forester is the reviewing officer for objections for this Project filed under the 36 CFR 218 and/or 36 CFR 219 regulations. Objections must be submitted to: Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service; Attn: Tahoe National Forest Over-snow Vehicle Use Designation Project; 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592. Objections may be submitted via mail, FAX (707-562-9229), or delivered during business hours (M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Electronic objections, in common (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt) formats, may be submitted to: objections-pacificsouthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us with Subject: Tahoe National Forest Over-snow Vehicle Use Designation Project

When to File an Objection

36 CFR 218 (Project): Objections on the project-level decision must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of the legal notice in Grass Valley's The Union. The date of the published legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer (36 CFR 218.9).

36 CFR 219 (Forest Plan Amendment): Objections on the forest plan amendment must be submitted within 60 days following the publication of the legal notice in The Union. The date of the published legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. It is the objector's responsibility to ensure evidence of timely receipt (36 CFR 219.56(c)).

Additional information about this Project can be obtained from: Joe Chavez, Forest Trails and Recreation Specialist for the Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959; telephone: 530-478-6158.